

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 07626 152225Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

/073 W

-----063254 152235Z /73

O 152141Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8445

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 7626

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, GT

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORT: EMBASSY COMMENTS

REF: STATE 298939

EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON UNCLASSIFIED VERSION,
AND SUGGESTED CHANGES, KEYED TO REFTEL FORMAL AND NUMBERING:

UNNUMBERED SECOND PARAGRAPH, SENTENCE THREE, TO READ: "THOSE
ADMINISTRATIONS..." VICE "THAT ADMINISTRATION AND THE ONE
THAT FOLLOWED"

UNNUMBERED FOURTH PARAGRAPH, FINAL SENTENCE TO READ: "RIGHTIST
GROUPS ALSO RETALIATE AGAINST SUPPOSED LEFTIST INSURGENTS AND
THEIR COLLABORATORS, AND SOMETIMES ENGAGE IN ACTS OF INTIMI-
DATION AGAINST CAMPESINOS."

UNNUMBERED FIFTH PARAGRAPH, FINAL SENTENCE TO READ: "BUT AS OF
MID-DECEMBER THERE HAS BEEN NO CLEAR PATTERN OF INCREASED POLI-
TICAL VIOLENCE IN THE PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD, ALTHOUGH THERE HAD
BEEN A RASH OF KIDNAPPINGS, THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF WHICH IS
NOT YET KNOWN."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GUATEM 07626 152225Z

1-A, TO READ: "TORTURE OF ALLEGED SUBVERSIVES HAS OCCURRED
WITH SOME FREQUENCY IN GUATEMALAN HISTORY. AFTER THE DEFEAT
OF THE INSURGENT MOVEMENT IN THE EARLY 1970'S, AND PARTICULARLY
SINCE THE LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATION TOOK OFFICE, INCIDENTS OF
THIS TYPE DECREASED AND THERE HAVE BEEN FEW RECENT ALLEGATIONS
OF TORTURE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF INSTITUTIONALIZED TORTURE

BY THE GOVERNMENT."

1-B, TO READ: "LEGALLY NOT PERMITTED BUT ABUSES PROBABLY OCCUR FROM TIME TO TIME DURING INTERROGATIONS OF TERRORISTS OR THOSE SUSPECTED OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY. HOWEVER, THERE HAS BEEN A MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER THE COURSE OF THE LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATION."

2-A, THIRD SENTENCE AND THEREAFTER TO READ: "THERE IS FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY FOR NON-POLITICAL PURPOSES. AS IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES, LARGE POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS AND PARADES ARE SUBJECT TO REGULATION BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. LABOR UNIONS ARE FREE UNDER LAW TO ORGANIZE. THERE ARE FEW STRONG, INDEPENDENT UNIONS, HOWEVER."

2-C, FIRST SENTENCE. WE PREFER LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO THAT USED IN LAST YEAR'S UNCLASSIFIED REPORT, NAMELY: "PRESIDENT LAUGERUD TOOK OFFICE IN JULY, 1974 AMID OPPOSITION CHARGES OF ELECTORAL FRAUD." IN SECOND SENTENCE, INSERT "THE FOUR" BETWEEN "BY" AND "DULY". REPLACE FINAL SENTENCE WITH: "THE ELECTORAL REGISTRY IS HEADED BY A GOVERNMENT APPOINTEE. DESPITE A LONG WAITING LIST, NO NEW PARTIES HAVE BEEN INSCRIBED IN RECENT YEARS. THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS PROSCRIBED BY LEGISLATION."

3-A, REPLACE WITH: "POLICIES DESIGNED TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE POOR AND POLICIES WHICH TINED TO IGNORE THE NEEDS OF THE POOR. ALTHOUGH SIGNIFICANT GAINS IN LIVING STANDARDS AND IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 GUATEM 07626 152225Z

THE EXPANSION OF A MIDDLE CLASS HAVE BEEN MADE OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE URBAN INDUSTRIAL AND SERVICE WORKERS, SEVERE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES STILL EXIST IN GUATEMALA. TRADITIONALLY, PROXIMITY TO GUATEMALA CITY OR TO THE DEPARTMENTAL SEATS HAS LARGELY DETERMINED THE DELIVERY OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL SERVICES. HOWEVER, THE GOG IS ATTEMPTING TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN RURAL AREAS AND HAS SOLICITED LOANS FROM INTERNATIONAL DONORS FOR EXPANSION OF RURAL HEALTH SERVICES, PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, AGRICULTURAL CREDIT, AND SUPPORT OF COOPERATIVES. ALSO, A MAJOR SUCCESS HAS BEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE 1976 EARTHQUAKE. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE US AND OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT HAS DONE A LAUDABLE JOB IN RESTORING SHELTER AND BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE HARDEST-HIT HIGHLAND AREA."

4, INSERT BETWEEN SECOND AND THIRD SENTENCES: "IT HAS RESISTED PRESSURES TO PROCLAIM A STATE OF SEIGE." OLD SENTENCE FIVE TO READ: "IN HIS JULY STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS, PRESIDENT LAUGERUD CONDEMNED THE USE OF INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT BY LARGE LANDOWNERS AGAINST LABOR." CONCLUDE PARAGRAPH AS FOLLOWS: "PRESIDENT LAUGERUD HAS CALLED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

AND LEADERS OF THE PARTIES TO EXHORT THEM TO AGREE ON GROUND RULES TO DISCOURAGE VIOLENCE DURING THE CAMPAIGN PRECEDING THE MARCH 1978 ELECTIONS. IN ADDITION THE GOVERNMENT REACTED WITH GREAT RESTRAINT IN THE FACE OF POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS. AS NOTED IN SECTION 3..."

5, REPLACE WITH: "BY HAVING SUBMITTED FOR RATIFICATION THE SAN JOSE CONVENTION AND BY SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE POST OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, THE GOG HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THE VALIDITY OF MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTING THROUGH RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL BODIES. IT HAS TERMED AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, HOWEVER, BIASED AND PROPAGANDISTIC. (IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE GOG WOULD WELCOME A VISIT BY THE IAHRC.)" EMBASSY WOULD PREFER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 GUATEM 07626 152225Z

NON-INCLUSION OF BRACKETED SENTENCE UNLESS DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THIS POINT.
BOSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM07626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770467-1051
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771253/aaaabsuh.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 163d6d03-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 298939
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 228219
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS EVALUATION REPORT: EMBASSY COMMENTS
TAGS: SHUM, GT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/163d6d03-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009